

# 4<sup>th</sup> of July Safety Operations Report

City Council Regular Meeting – July 13, 2021



Ryan Johansen – Chief of Police



Ari Delay – Fire Chief

# Background

- Safe and sane fireworks are permitted in San Bruno
  - Voter approval of Measure G in 2005
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July presents safety challenges
  - Use of illegal fireworks before, during and after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - Large, unruly gatherings
  - Increased alcohol use
  - Exacerbated when the 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend
- Expansive education, prevention and enforcement operations annually
  - Funded by safe and sane fireworks sales
  - Does not, and will not, stop illegal fireworks use



# Pre-4<sup>th</sup> of July Operations

- Robust Incident Action Plan created and approved
- Joint Fire/Police PSA created and disseminated
- Safety meetings with all booth operators
- Educational flyers provided with every fireworks sale
- Informational warning notices to all City Facilities
- Advance police contact at known violation locations
- Use of data to focus resource deployment
- Dedicated enforcement details prior to 4<sup>th</sup>

# 4<sup>th</sup> of July Staffing

- All SBPD personnel ordered to work
  - 42 staff (Officers, Dispatchers, Clerks, CSOs)
    - 28 sworn and 14 non-sworn
    - 8 fewer sworn than 2020 (4 teams)
    - Many worked 16 consecutive hours
    - All beats staffed as usual, plus dedicated enforcement units deployed
      - Marked and unmarked units
      - Uniformed and plain clothes personnel
      - Undercover surveillance
      - No bicycle units this year (staffing)
- Dedicated Fire Department Staff
- Dedicated Parks Department Staff
- Dedicated Streets Department Staff



# Calls for Service

- SBPD handled **298** calls for service on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - 10 more than last year
  - Peak activity period – 8:30pm to 11:00pm
    - **152** calls for service during this 3-hour period alone
- **185** calls were fireworks related
  - 3 more than last year
  - Fairly normal when holiday falls on weekend
  - Most reports vague and marginally workable
    - Officers must “on-view” violations to cite



# Other Cities Have Similar Challenges

- Number of fireworks-related calls for service on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2021
  - San Bruno: 185
  - Pacifica: 191
    - Only other SM County City allowing safe and sane fireworks use/sales
    - Enforcement similar to San Bruno
      - Funded by the sale of safe and sane fireworks
  - East Palo Alto: 229
  - Daly City: 126
  - San Mateo: 119
  - South San Francisco: 107
    - None of these Cities allow safe and sane fireworks
    - None of these Cities have a funding source for large-scale enforcement
    - None of these agencies respond to fireworks-only complaints

# Enforcement

- \$1,000 Administrative Citation
  - Citing Officer must directly observe a specific person committing a specific violation
  - Officer must then safely detain the violator
    - Weighing seriousness with risks
  - Violator must be cited, not physically arrested
  - Only evidence in plain view can be seized
  - Resident-provided video can help identify suspects, but cannot replace “in presence” legal requirement
- Person(s) in control of a gathering can be cited
  - Must prove knowledge (warning)
  - Must prove responsibility



# Enforcement Data

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Admin Cites	17	38	21	25	22	11	11	9	8
Arrests	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

- 17 Administrative Citations issued this year
  - Notably down from last year (last year was most ever by almost 2x)
  - Fewer staff members / shorter peak window / more unobservable use
  - Of the 17 people cited 10 were San Bruno residents
- About 66 pounds of live illegal fireworks seized
  - 12 pounds more than last year
  - 47 pounds over the annual average
  - Also over 50 pounds of spent fireworks collected

# Preliminary Cost Estimate

Department	Nature	Cost
City Manager's Office	Educational Mailer	\$ 6,578.88
Police Department	Public Service Announcement	\$ 338.05
Community Services	Additional Staff on the 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 1,336.97
Fire Department	Fire Marshal Administrative and Inspection Hours	\$ 1,969.74
Fire Department	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Staffing and Logistics	\$ 8,224.20
Police Department	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Staffing and Logistics	\$ 29,848.00
Police Department	Pre and Post 4 <sup>th</sup> Education and Enforcement / Logistics	\$ 4,578.00
Public Works	Cleanup Costs (Labor & Equipment)	\$ 7,806.75
Total		\$ 60,680.59

NOTE: Costs covered by fees collected from Safe & Sane Firework sales  
Cities without such sales have no funding source for these operations

# Police Department Annual Debrief

- Enhance what works well
  - Increase use of undercover surveillance units
  - Conduct buy/bust operations throughout the year
  - Increase use of data to direct resources
- Reduce or eliminate what is ineffective
  - Limit response to calls without critical information
- Consider other enhancements
  - Streamlined “ID and Cite Later” procedures
  - Use of 3<sup>rd</sup> party video evidence
  - Use of UAS/Drone

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# 4<sup>th</sup> of July Staffing

- San Bruno Fire Department staffed
- 1 extra ALS Engine Company
  - (3 Engine, 1 Truck in the city)
- All fire prevention staff on duty
- Fire Chief



# Calls for Service

- San Bruno Fire Department handled 19 calls for service on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Peak activity period – 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm
  - 32% of the calls were fireworks related (6)



# Calls for Service

- San Bruno Fire Department noticed an increase in fire related calls during the week leading up to July 4th

Date	Fire related	Total Calls
June 6 - June 14	2	91
June 15 - June 21	0	93
June 22 - June 28	0	78
June 29 - July 5	7	98

# Observations

- Illegal fireworks use was heavy this year
- Prevention & early detection was critical
- Weed abatement efforts were made prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> by the
  - City Public Works and San Bruno Parks Department
- One significant injury due to illegal fireworks use



Questions ????

